



M E D I A R E L E A S E

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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CAROBENE RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS OF STATE SERVICE

Nashville—The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Deputy Commissioner Joe Carobene has retired after 36 years of service to the state of Tennessee. Carobene has been Deputy Commissioner for TDMHDD since March 2003. He was formerly the CEO/Chief Officer of Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute from February 1989 to March 2003.

"Joe Carobene has been a true asset to the Tennessee public mental health system," stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "His dedication to the department's mission and the clients we serve is extremely admirable. All of us here at TDMHDD are so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Joe, and he will truly be missed by TDMHDD staff and the entire mental health community."

Carobene has also served at three of the five state psychiatric hospitals. His first involvement with a psychiatric hospital was in 1987 when he was placed in charge of Lakeshore Mental Health Institute. In 1999-2000, the department called on him to be the interim CEO at Memphis Mental Health Institute as the hospital's medical staff resigned with only two weeks notice. His experience on both sides of mental health, including his tenure at Greene Valley Developmental Center and Clover Bottom Developmental Center, provided him with knowledge that has allowed him to be an integral part of the progress of the department.

Carobene feels that one of his most rewarding career accomplishments was being part of the design and development of two new state psychiatric facilities from start to finish. Middle Tennessee Mental Health Institute opened in August of 1995 and Memphis Mental Health Institute opened in September of 2007. Few hospital CEO's have been involved in all the stages of construction of a new hospital, and he is grateful to have had that opportunity.

After spending four years in the United States Air Force in medical administration, Carobene returned to Austin Peay State University to finish his degree. Upon graduation in 1972 he began his 36 year tenure with the State of Tennessee and was hired as a budget analyst for the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation fiscal office.

Carobene and his wife, Betty, have been married for 41 years. He has two children and one grandson. In his free time, he enjoys boating and duck hunting.

For more information on the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities and Memphis Mental Health Institute please visit www.state.tn.us/mental.

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